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the United States National Museum, forms a volume of 250 pages; the nomenclature and classification being based on the list of Professor Cope, forming the first bulletin of the series, of which the present is the twenty-fourth.—Recent experiments by Drs. Mitchell and Reichert, indicate that *Heloderma suspectum* is poisonous. It is usually sluggish in its habits, and will not bite unless provoked; but when the full-sized lizard (it grows to a length of three feet) does bite, it produces a poisonous wound, which may prove fatal. For the purpose of experiment, Dr. M. caused the lizard to bite on the edge of a saucer, and when saliva commenced to flow it was caught on a watch glass. Differing from the saliva of venomous reptiles, which is always acid, the saliva of the *Heloderma* is alkaline. A very small quantity injected into a pigeon produced its effect in a tottering gait in less than three minutes, and caused death in less than nine minutes. The specimen presented was fourteen inches long, fat and plump. See NATURALIST, 1882, p. 907.—That pigs will dive for fish is averred by J. C. Hughes, in *Forest and Stream*, who, writing from British Columbia, says: "Pigs living upon the clear-water rivers learn to dive after the salmon lying dead on the bottom of the streams, and the interesting sight may be witnessed of a sow diving for a salmon, and when obtained taking it ashore for her little ones."

*General.*—The third heft of the current volume of Gegenbaur's *Morphologisches Jahrbuch* contains a paper by Bütschli on a hypothesis relative to the derivation of the vascular apparatus of a part of the Metazoa.—Under the title, "Life, and its physical basis," Professor H. A. Nicholson discusses protoplasm, and so-called "vital" phenomena; while he discards the old "vital force" of the vitalists, he holds the hypothesis of an inner directing power in the vital phenomena of the higher to be absolutely inevitable, and that if this applies to man so it must to the moner.

#### PSYCHOLOGY.

GLUTTONY IN A FROG—A rather interesting incident occurred while I was a student in the Sheffield Scientific School, of Yale College. In the Peabody Museum we had a large wire cage containing numerous reptiles and among these was a frog of unusual size.

On one of our excursions I brought in a number of frogs and other animals, and going to the cage dropped the contents of the jar, frogs and all, down among the animals at the bottom. The large frog, which had been confined there for some time, caught one of the small ones before it reached the bottom of the cage, and swallowed it with as great ease as he would have captured a fly. This quickly done, he sat and looked about with an air of satisfaction for a moment, then sprang upon another of medium size, caught and swallowed it as quickly as the first. This done,

there was another pause of a couple of minutes, and then with another quick bound, he seized and swallowed a third frog, equal in size to the second; this accomplished there was another pause of about five minutes, and then another quick, savage bound for a fourth victim, this time for a frog two-thirds the size of himself. Each of the three was seized and swallowed head first, but the fourth effort was not so successful as the others, for this he only managed to get into his mouth as far as its hind legs, when there was a pause and a struggle. The unfortunate frog in the mouth of the large one persisted in holding its hind legs out sidewise, at right angles to its body, as if conscious that these tactics would prevent the other from swallowing it; and at the same time the large one used its front feet, at times one, and again both, to straighten out the hind legs of his victim so that he might be able to swallow it; and while this struggle was going on, he made frequent efforts to use the sides and bottom of the cage as an object against which to press the other frog, so as to aid his efforts to swallow it. The struggle, however, after lasting a number of minutes terminated in favor of the smaller frog, for by desperate efforts it managed to elude the grasp of its assailant; but while the battle did last it used both its muscular and vocal powers to their utmost to thwart the murderous designs of its enemy.—*B. F. Koons, Mansfield, Conn., May 22d, 1883.*

ACTIVITY OF THE SENSES IN NEW-BORN INFANTS.—In a recent inaugural dissertation, Dr. Genzmer discusses the activity of the senses in new-born infants. *Inter alia*, he says the sense of touch is developed from the earliest period, and reflex actions are readily excited by the slightest stimulation of the nerves of touch, especially of the face, then of the hands, and soles of the feet. The feeling of pain is but slowly developed, and is only clearly shown after four or five weeks, before which time infants do not shed tears. Smell and taste are not distinguishable in infants. Hearing is perceptible in the first, or at most, the second day of life. New-born infants are so sensitive to light that they will turn the head to follow a mild light; while, if a strong glare be suddenly thrown on the eye, squinting is induced, and even convulsive closure of the lids. After a few days the child will follow the motion of various objects by movement of its head. Between the fourth and fifth weeks the convergence of the pupils and coordination in vision are perceptible. A distinct perception of color does not exist under four or five months; before then it is quantity rather than quality of light that is recognized.—*English Mechanic.*

#### ANTHROPOLOGY.<sup>1</sup>

THE GROWTH OF CHILDREN.—Dr. George W. Peckham, professor of biology, Milwaukee, Wis., has been making inquiries concerning the growth of children in that city. Cards similar to

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